Boom in Tourism Industry

241. SHRI JAGMOHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a boom in tourism is expected all over the world in the second half of nineties;

(b) if so, what schemes/programmes are being planned to ensure that India takes the maximum advantage of this boom; and

(c) whether any special project has been envisaged to attract tourists to the spots which are associated with ancient India's culture and religion?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) According to forecasts made by the World Tourism Organisation, the world wide international tourist arrival is expected to grow at an average rate of 4.4. percent during the second half of nineties. The projected growth rate for the South Asia region during the same period is 7 percent.

(b) The Government has initiated several measures for the improvement of infrastructural facilities for tourism. It includes declaration of tourism as a priority sector for foreign investment, provision of incentives and facilities for attracting private investment in tourism projects, assistance to State Governments for the development of tourism infrastructure, introduction of tourist trains and upgradation of indentified airports.

(c) A special scheme for the refurbishment of monuments and landscaping of the area around them has been drawn up recently to develop facilities for cultural tourism. Infrastructural development in identified Buddhist centres in U.P., Bihar and Maharashtra are being carried out under the OECF Project.

Outlay for Power Sector in Bihar

242. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an outlay of Rs. 388.76 crores was approved for power sector in Bihar during 1993-94;

(b) if so, how the outlay was utilised in that State with details thereof and results achieved therefrom;

(c) what was the approved outlay for power sector in Bihar for 1994-95; and

(d) whether any market improvement in power generation has been noticed in that State after utilizing outlays of 1993-94 and 1994-95; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILA CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The actual expenditure for power sector during the year 1993-94 in Bihar was Rs. 85.66 crores.

(c) The approved outlay for power sector in Bihar for 1994-95 was Rs. 398.26 crores.

(d) The total power generation in Bihar during the year 1993-94 and 1994-95 was 2988 million units (MUs) and 3286 MUs respectively. The total power generaation during the year 1992-93 was 2963 MUs.

Rate of Inflation

243. SHRI V. NARYANASAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rate of inflation recently touched double digit figure; and

(b) if so, steps taken by Government to bring down inflation and control prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) The annual inflation rate based on

wholesale Price Index remained at double digit level between 15th November, 1994 to 8th April, 1995. Thereafter the inflation rate declined to the single digit level gradually and continuously reaching 7.7% in the week ending 8th July, 1995.

(d) A number of policy initiatives to contain inflation were introduced late last year. As part of supply management policy a number of steps were taken to ensure availability of essential commodities such as foodgrains, edible oils, sugar and pulses through open market sale, liberal imports under OGL and reduction or waiving of import duty. On the demand side the monetary policy measures taken were meant to bring about moderation in monetary and credit growth.

Pending proposals for power plants in Orissa

244. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposals pending with Government for setting up of power plants in Orissa as on 30th June, 1995;

(b) the installed capacities of these plants; and

(c) what are the details of stages at which the proposals are pending?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILA CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) to (c) The following proposals have been received in the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) for accord of techno-economic clearance as on 30th June, 1995:—

S.No.	Name of Project	Type	Capacity (MW)
1.	Sindol	Hydro	320
2.	Addl. Power Generation at Hirakud and Chiplima (Hirakud B & Chiplima B)	Hydro	(4×52) + (4×50) = 208 = 200
3.	Talcher STPP St. II	Thermal	4 × 500

The project authorities have been requested to obtain all clearances and establish the requisite inputs linkages for consideration of the projects by CEA for accord of techno-economic clearance.

Proposal for developing Shirdi for International Tourism

245. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from Government of Maharashtra for developing Shirdi (Saibaba) for International tourism, if so, what is Government's reaction to the proposal; and

(b) whether a proposal for the construction an aerodrome at Shirdi (Saibaba) is under Government's consideration, if so, what is the progress made on the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) State Government of Maharashtra had submited Shirdi Development Plan. The Committee on Pilgrim Tourism identified only the development of an airport at Shirdi and a wayside facility at Tryambak.

(b) The State Government of Maharashtra have a proposal for construction of an aerodrome at Shirdi for